

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183339

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATION ON WALVIS BAY

REF: USUN 2953

1. SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER (DCM) W. M. RETIEF PAID INITIAL
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CALL ON NEW AF/S DIRECTOR HERBERT KAISER JULY 18. WHILE
VISIT WAS BILLED ESSENTIALLY AS COURTESY CALL, RETIEF'S
PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS EVIDENTLY NAMIBIA AND WALVIS BAY.
GIVEN SHORT NOTICE ON WHICH HE REQUESTED MEETING AND OTHER
INDICATIONS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES HE MADE DEMARCHE RE THIS
SUBJECT ON INSTRUCTIONS, POSSIBLY INTENDED TO PARALLEL
STATEMENT BY EKSTEEN IN NEW YORK.

2. MAIN THRUST OF RETIEF'S REMARKS WAS URGENT DESIRE OF SAG TO OBTAIN CLEAR READING ON INTENTIONS OF WESTERN FIVE AND HOW THEY PLANNED TO HANDLE WALVIS BAY ISSUE IN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE STATED THAT SAG WOULD WANT TO PREPARE ITS POSITION ACCORDINGLY. WHILE RETIEF EXPRESSED STRONG SAG DESIRE TO BRING WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL TO SECURITY COUNCIL AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE, HE VOICED MOUNTING SAG CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF INFORMATION AS TO HOW THE ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED. WE DID NOT SHARE WITH RETIEF OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT PRESENT SCENARIO CALLS FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO END MONDAY FOLLOWED BY UNSC MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 25, TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL, NOR WAS HE BRIEFED ON DRAFT RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY.

3. RETIEF ALSO MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF SAG PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING DEBATE, NOTING THAT HOW THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED MIGHT BEAR ON SAG'S DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE. WE TOLD RETIEF THAT WE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THE POINTS HE RAISED AT THIS TIME, BUT THAT HIS COMMENTS WOULD BE REPORTED.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH RETIEF, DEPARTMENT WOULD CONCUR WITH REFTTEL THAT, CONSISTENT WITH OUR NEED TO CONSIDER VORSTER'S RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT BEFORE TAKING ISSUE UP AGAIN WITH SAG, WE SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER TO ALLAY PRESENT SAG CONCERNS AND POSSIBLY MOUNTING SUSPICIONS.

CHRISTOPHER

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